

Rural District of North Westmorland



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1970



Stricklandgate House, P.O. Box 18, Kendal


Telephone Number: Kendal 23502

KENDAL

TITUS WILSON & SON LTD.

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NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Rural District in acres	288,688
Population at 1961 Census	...	...	...	15,354
Population (Registrar-General's mid year estimate)				15,780
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	5,428
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£423,719
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£1,820
Total Rate in the Pound levied	...	...	...	11/2d.
of which the County Rate was	...	...	...	9/2d.

The Rural District of North Westmorland lies between the central mountainous mass of the Lake District and the escarpment of the Pennine Chain, and possesses a wide variety of scenery. The main geographical feature of the District is the Eden Valley, a fertile agricultural strip which was once the route of a Roman highway. The River Eden rises in Mallerstang, flows past the market town of Kirkby Stephen to the foothills of the Pennine Range, and thence north-westwards through the ancient Borough of Appleby to its junction with the River Eamont, where it leaves the District.

The country to the north-east rises abruptly to some 2,500 feet, and on the far side the northernmost boundary lies in the desolate area of the Upper Tees Valley. To the south-east of the Eden Valley lies the central upland plateau which extends from Shap to Kirkby Stephen broken only by a few charming wooded valleys and occasional villages. South of this plateau the River Lune flows through pastoral Ravenstonedale into the gorge below Tebay, and the southern boundary of the District is the 2,000 feet high rampart of the great watershed of Westmorland. In the south-west, fells of the Lake District rise to over 3,000 feet, and in the valleys lie the beautiful lakes of Ullswater and Haweswater. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore influence the spread of infectious diseases.

The geology of North Westmorland is also very varied. The escarpment of the Pennine Chain in the north and the central upland mass are formed of lower carboniferous limestone, and the Eden Valley lies between along the lines of the Pennine Fault. The Cross Fell inlier in the Dufton and Hilton areas is a unique formation containing in miniature most of the Lake District rocks, Skiddaw slates, Borrowdale volcanic rocks, Coniston limestone, the Ashgillian series, and Silurian strata above which follows the dominating carboniferous series of the escarpment.

The Vale of Eden is composed mainly of permian sandstone, with St. Bees sandstone in the south, with small beds of red shales, gypsum and magnesium limestone. Above and below the Penrith sandstone lie Brockrams and Breccias, and further west some red conglomerate basement beds are found in the Pooley Bridge area. To the south-west the Borrowdale Volcanic series occur, with ashes and breccias often well bedded and cleaved, and the Silurian strata commence south of Shap. A further interesting feature is the outcrop of the Shap granite intrusion through the Borrowdale series near their junction with the thin Coniston limestone beds. Glacial drift remains at several places and the valley bottoms contain alluvial deposits. These geological characteristics are of great significance in the supervision of water supplies, sewerage and occupational diseases as well as affecting the economics of the District.

The climate is equable in the valleys and invigorating on the fellsides and uplands. The air is generally very clear and there is little mist or fog. Temperature gradient inversions are occasional in the mornings. The average rainfall is 75 inches a year in the Haweswater area but decreases sharply towards the eastern parts of the District: in the upper parts of the Eden Valley it is about 35 inches per year. Snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is primarily agricultural in character and many of the small local industries are ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries which provide much local employment and bring a measure of prosperity to the villages: Stone quarries and mines for gypsum and barytes, factories for plaster and cement, and railway work.

In addition to these local industries the District receives seasonal tourist business along the main highways, and in the Lake District areas, particularly around Pooley Bridge. The variety of these opportunities for local employment helps to some extent to check the continuing drift from the countryside. Economic security and local prosperity are most important factors in the maintenance of the public health.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
Madge, F. T.	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
Kelly, R. M.	M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.	Chief Public Health Inspector	Whole	—
Ridley, R.	M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector	Whole	—
Cradock, N.	—	Clerk and Technical Assistant to 30.11.70	Part	—
Allinson, J. H.	—	Clerk	Part	—
Machell, B. M.	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland

Staff Changes.

On re-organisation of the Council's staff, Mr. Cradock was transferred to whole time engagement in another department. Our best wishes and thanks go with him for his 22 years of valuable help.

VITAL STATISTICS

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for last year for comparison.

Area of the District in acres ... 288,688

	1969	1970
Estimated civilian population (mid year) ..	15,800	15,780
Live Births. Legitimate—		
males	132	116
females ..	111	105
Illegitimate—		
males	6	6
females ..	7	5
Total	256	232
Crude Rate per 1,000 population	16.2	14.7
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	17.8	16.2
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.3	16.0
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 live births	50	47
Still Births. Legitimate—		
males	2	1
females ..	—	5
Illegitimate—		
males	—	—
females ..	—	—
Total	2	6
Total (live and still) births ..	258	238
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	8	25
Rate for England and Wales ..	13	13
Deaths. males	85	100
females	74	105
Total	159	205
Crude Rate per 1,000 population ..	10.1	13.0
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	9.7	12.9
Rate for England and Wales ..	11.9	11.7

	1969	1970
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)		
Total deaths under 1 year.. ..	7	3
Rate per 1,000 live births	27	13
Rate for England and Wales	18	18
Legitimate	7	3
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	29	14
Illegitimate	—	—
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—
Neonatal Deaths (under 4 weeks)		
Total neonatal deaths	6	2
Rate per 1,000 live births	23	9
Rate for England and Wales	12	12
Early Neonatal Deaths (under 1 week)		
Total early neonatal deaths	15	2
Rate per 1,000 live births	20	9
Rate for England and Wales	10	11
Perinatal Mortality		
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week.. .. .	7	8
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	27	34
Rate for England and Wales	23	23
Maternal Mortality		
Total Deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales	0.19	0.18

Deaths from certain causes:—	1969.	1970.
Cancer	26	36
Measles	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
The main causes of death were:		
Heart Disease ... ..	...	72
Cerebro vascular disease ... ..	...	39
Cancer ... ..	...	36

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Population Movements.

I believe that we are at the greatest turning point in the history of our Rural District. People are coming here, instead of dwindling away.

Our history is not simply that of a 35 year old local government unity: it is the history of a beautiful countryside, and the folk who have made their homes here since the dawn of time. Our fate and fortunes have always been bound up with the fact that we found ourselves astride other people's lines of communication.

The tide of depopulation has turned. Residential development has been trickling in from Penrith for commuters and from further afield for retirement settlers. Our own industrial expansion with the gypsum mines and plasterboard mill at Kirkby Thore has brought a wave of fresh residents. But the great flood tide is already rolling on its way up from the south, with the completion of the M.6 motorway across our countryside from Tebay gorge to Eamont Bridge. We shall have the proposed service areas and interchange roads revitalising our local economy. We are prominently on display all along the shop windows of the motorway. Thousands of passers-by can see the attractive charm and opportunities of North Westmorland: the best they have seen all the way up from London.

So North Westmorland is now at a major turning point in more ways than one. We need to do some hard thinking as to what sort of a new image we select for ourselves. Do we encourage industrial development when we shall then be able to offer fast modern road and rail communications north and southwards, and one of the few trans-Pennine roads to the east? Do we favour more extensive holiday and tourist development of our hitherto unnoticed valleys of still unspoiled natural beauty or do we just sit back and wave to passing motorists? These are vital components of Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate.

Our birth rate used to be well above that for England and Wales, but in recent years it has been about the national level. The trend seems to be rising again.

Death Rate.

Even when adjusted to the corrected rate for fair comparison, our local death rate usually runs slightly above the national average.

Perinatal Mortality.

There is often not much difference between the cause of a baby dying in the first week of its life and the cause of a stillbirth. Sometimes it is a matter of chance whether such a baby dies before delivery or after. So we now add the number of stillbirths to the number of babies dying in their first week, and we call it the perinatal mortality: in popular language, the deaths happen around the time of birth.

Mountain Accidents.

Accidents on our mountains are a special hazard in the western parts of our area within the Lake District, and on the wild uplands of the Pennines. A regular toll of death and suffering happens every year. Most of these accidents are preventable, and they mostly affect our visitors.

The inexperienced, the unlucky, and the foolhardy, fall out of crags while rock-climbing, lose themselves in the dark and the mist and the snow. The physically unfit die of exhaustion, exposure and heart attacks.

Someone has to turn out to look for them, and rescue them, and bury them. A magnificent local organization of search and rescue teams has been built up in the District to meet these demands.

A campaign for the prevention of mountain accidents has been organized not only in your District, but also back into the big towns from which our visitors come, and to a wider audience on the radio and television. We hope it may help.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE	Total	Ages											Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-			65-
Measles	91	-	16	2	5	12	37	18	1	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ..	10	-	1	-	3	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ..	4	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	107	1	18	2	9	12	43	19	2	-	-	1	-	-

**PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.**

The general incidence of illness can be assessed by the weekly number of new claims for sickness benefit at our local National Insurance offices. A logarithmic graph of those figures shows a regular seasonal pattern over the years, and any variations are usually worth investigating. The general trend is some measure of local community health.

Under the Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1968, Acute Meningitis, Infective Jaundice, Leptospirosis, Tetanus and Yellow Fever were added to the list of diseases required to be notified. Pneumonia, Puerperal Pyrexia and Erysipelas are no longer notifiable.

Measles was the main feature in 1970. It came in two waves. The first in April and May, in the villages surrounding Appleby and associated with a concurrent outbreak in the Borough. The second wave came from the other end of the district, in high summer, in the villages around Penrith. The rest of the year was almost free from measles.

Immunisation against measles is still too recent to assess its results in our own locality. But we are hoping that it will eventually be as successful as the other immunisations against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis.

The scarlet fever cases were all in the autumn, again around Penrith. Our troubles of 1969 with dysenteries and infective jaundice were happily abated during 1970.

I am grateful to my colleagues in general practice, and in the hospital service, for their prompt help in notifying infectious diseases. The control of the most serious of these illnesses is one of the most important duties of our department.

No cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year.

The number of tuberculosis patients on the register at the year end were :—

		1969.	1970.
Respiratory	...	25	25
Non-Respiratory	...	4	4
		—	—
		29	29
		—	—

Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board at Carlisle.

Smallpox cases will be taken to Langley Park Hospital, Durham City, in ambulances provided by Durham County Council.

Ambulance transport for other cases of infectious disease is provided by the Westmorland County Council.

The Hospital Services.

Your District lies in the area of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board, and the general hospitals at Carlisle have traditionally served the acute medical and surgical needs of our people, and it seems likely that they will continue to do so.

But some of the villages on the southern fringes of your District are often more conveniently served by the hospitals in Kendal, which are in the area of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board. There are signs of change down there.

The Government's national policy to develop what are to be called District General Hospitals seems likely to mean that the southern end of our area will have to rely more and more on Carlisle and Lancaster, and less on Kendal, as the Hospital Plan comes into effect in the next ten years.

Some people think that Westmorland risks being left rather ill-served if the hospital services concentrate themselves on Lancaster and Carlisle. There is a lot of territory in between, and transport communications are not very easy for out-patients and visitors to get to those hospitals and home again.

The Newcastle Regional Hospital Board have very sensibly recognised these difficulties, especially for the medium- and long-stay hospital needs of elderly people. A lovely new modern hospital was opened early in 1969, with 60 geriatric beds and 15 maternity beds, at Penrith, just on the border of our Rural District. This enabled the old awkwardly located geriatric hospital at Ormside to be closed. Furthermore we have the promise of a Cottage Hospital to be built at Kirkby Stephen.

HOUSING.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your District, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with unfit houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's housing estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

Present Housing Position.

There are 5,428 inhabited houses on your Rate Books at the end of the year. With an estimated population of 15,780, the average number of persons per house is 2.9 which is not a high figure. Four houses are legally overcrowded within the strict definition of the Housing Act which assumes that living-rooms are used also for sleeping purposes and the sexes can be segregated irrespective of age, health and family relationships. At the time of the 1961 Census there were 4,833 private households living in 4,826 structurally separate dwellings.

A lot of houses in the Rural District are occupied by only one or two persons. The 1961 Census revealed that 616 houses contained only one occupier, and that another 1,329 houses had only two people living in them.

General Progress of Slum Clearance.

Westmorland as a whole has made very encouraging progress in post-war slum clearance despite all the difficulties of the times. Since the campaign was resumed in 1948 well over 1,400 houses in the County have been dealt with by formal action under the Housing Acts. Most of these will eventually be demolished or converted to trade use, but some of them have been reprieved by their owners undertaking to spend considerable money for comprehensive reconditioning up to modern standards.

In addition to those formal actions there have been a very creditable number of informal schemes for the renovation of substandard houses, either with the aid of improvement grants or entirely by private enterprise. The aim is to save a house wherever possible, but if it cannot be brought up to an acceptable standard of safety, decency and amenity the sooner it is swept away the better.

In your own District good progress continued with slum clearance. Every endeavour was made to persuade owners to recondition them if there seemed any possibility of retaining them as dwellings.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required your Council to declare their proposals for dealing with sub-standard houses. You resolved to deal with the estimated 349 houses within the next fifteen years. The Minister of Housing and Local Government approved that scheme and it is now on deposit for public inspection. You may have to speed up a bit, but I hope that the grants now available will save an increasing proportion of old houses.

Now that the maximum standard and improvement grant levels have been raised to £200 and £1,000 respectively with the possibility of a standard grant of up to £450 in certain cases, it is expected that the rate of progress in the private house improvement sector will increase. With the arrival of the M.6 an increasing number of urban dwellers are improving and converting old cottages and barns with grant aid and using them as second houses. Local residents are often unable to afford these schemes and must therefore continue to rely on the Council for housing or continue living in rented, often sub-standard houses.

Circular 92/69 required your Council to furnish an estimate of slum clearance for the four years period 1970-1973. The reply was made that we hope to deal with 15 individual unfit houses during 1970, then 20 per year for 1971 and 1972, with 25 in 1973; this will probably leave about a further 40 to cope with between 1974 and 1978. We do not expect that any will be suitably sited for dealing with as clearance areas. I reckon that our postwar achievement of pruning out nearly 400 substandard cottages in a scattered countryside has been a creditable and worthwhile effort, particularly for those which were saved.

For the Record — 1970.

For the purpose of departmental record and statutory returns, I have set out the details of certain slum clearance actions taken during the current year:—

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 18.

17 closing orders were made during the year, and at 31st December there were altogether 15 houses subject to operative closing orders still occupied. One was determined during the year.

Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

No such undertaking was accepted during the year, and at 31st December there was no house in this category still occupied.

Undertakings to Perform Works.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 26.

No such undertakings were accepted during the year.

2 such undertakings were outstanding on the Register of Local Land Charges.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

No demolition orders were made during the year. 4 demolition orders were outstanding on the Register of Local Land Charges at the year end. None of these houses are still occupied.

Clearance Areas.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 44.

There are no outstanding clearance areas.

General Improvement Areas.

Preliminary work has been carried out this year in connection with the possible declaration of certain properties at Tebay to be a General Improvement Area.

Improvement Grants.

35 discretionary grants and 41 standard grants were approved during the year. 740 houses have been renovated and converted under grants made by your Council. A very worthwhile effort.

House Building Progress.

Since 1948 your Council have built 405 houses and another 377 houses have been put up by private enterprise.

Your Council completed no houses during the year. Private enterprise completed 13 in the same period. Conversion to existing houses provided one additional unit this year.

At the year end 53 houses were under construction by your Council at Kirkby Stephen and Brough and there were 13 by private enterprise.

The Special Needs for Old People.

Both your Council and various charitable organizations have done a lot of good work in providing special houses for the elderly, but a lot more needs doing to keep pace with the increasing proportion of old people in the community.

I suggest that purpose-designed bungalows and ground floor flats are still much needed, with low fittings, handrails, lever door-handles, easy gradient steps, and such-like special aids for the elderly.

I believe that the time has come to provide groups of semi-dependency type houses for old people with a resident welfare warden available in case of need.

Housing Management.

Your Council now own 560 occupied houses, situated in widely dispersed sites in your extensive District. The housing management is largely in the hands of the Engineer and Surveyor and every effort is made to inspect the houses at regular intervals to see that the property is kept in good condition.

165 Council houses were built before the 1939-45 war, and many are over 30 years old. The increase in numbers and age of these houses calls for more frequent attention and entails higher maintenance costs.

The rents of your Council houses vary from 11/od. to £3.10.0, and the rateable values from £21 to £52.

Housing Nuisances.

During the year there were 11 Informal Notices served under the Public Health Act, and one Statutory Notice was served.

Certificates of Disrepair.

No certificates were issued during the year.

Rent Qualification Certificates.

Housing Act, 1969.

Three qualification certificates were issued in 1970.

Dangerous Buildings.

No formal action was necessary during the year, but informal action was taken in two cases.

Caravans.

There is now excellent legislation for controlling caravan sites. We were able to work in harmonious and efficient co-operation with both Westmorland County Planning Authority and the Lake District Planning Board for their respective areas within your Rural District. The result of that amicable combination of powers was the adoption of a very high standard of requirements for the siting, equipping and management of caravan sites.

By the end of the year 54 caravan-site licences were in force. They covered a maximum total number of 589 caravans permitted on the sites, usually with seasonal restriction to between 1st March and 31st October in each year. These included 21 licences for 122 caravans for permanent habitation, a practice which we discourage unless there are very special reasons for such a substandard choice or necessity.

We still feel the lack of sufficient overnight stopping-sites for touring caravans. With our District on the fringe of the National Park, and lying on the main traffic routes which our visitors use, we have to suffer a lot of mess and risk of disease from caravanners who stop overnight on our highway laybys. These places get very fouled for most of the summer.

Tented Camping.

At the year end there were no licences in force under the Public Health Act. It now excludes caravans and so mainly applies to tented camp sites.

Unlicensed camping sites are limited to occasional use and are mainly on the Ullswater Shore or along the banks of the River Eden during the fishing season. These casual campers cause little nuisance by their improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal, but they take water from polluted becks at their own risk.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Administration

The public water supplies are administered by the Eden Water Board, which was formed in 1963 and took over the statutory water undertaking from your Council, for merger with four others in a wider area of northern Westmorland and southern Cumberland. Your Council has four representations on the Board.

I record my sincere appreciation of the help and liaison maintained by the Engineer and Manager, and all the staff of the Board, in our day to day involvement with specific local problems.

Quantitative Aspects

North Westmorland is fairly well watered, there is a lot of water both above and below ground at certain places in the district. The problems lie in getting it distributed where it is wanted, and making it safe to drink.

I welcome the policy of the Eden Water Board to extend the regional trunk mains to enable the progressive abandonment of inadequate and untreated small local sources of public water supply.

The East Regional Scheme brought a new trunk main from Swindale to Crosby Garrett, with great benefit to all the villages along its routes. The Barton Scheme was completed in 1970, enabling the surplus yield of Hayeswater to improve supplies to Martindale, Pooley Bridge, Tirril and Sockbridge, Yanwath and Eamont Bridge.

The Pennine Scheme will eventually solve most of the problems of the villages along our northern fringe, while Hilton and Murton will be improved by extending a supply from Appleby.

The Orton to Tebay scheme was also completed in 1970, to augment the Churn Gill source when needed.

The great natural overground sources from the mountains have now been supplemented by much more accessible local deep boreholes into the abundant underground supplies in the Penrith sandstone layers below the Eden Valley. The borehole at Kirkby Thore has been in service for several years, and a new borehole has recently been sunk at Cliburn for commissioning in the near future.

Distribution

About 92% of houses are now connected to a public water main. The remaining 8% mostly have some sort of a piped supply laid on from individual private systems of wells, springs, becks, or stored rainwater, which may not always yield as much water as the users

PUBLIC WATER DISTRIBUTION, 31.12.70

Parish	No. of Houses in Parish	No. of Houses with water laid on	No. of Houses supplied from Stand Taps	No. of Houses otherwise supplied
Asby	104	102	—	2
Askham	141	141	—	—
Bampton	128	110	—	18
Barton	112	102	—	10
Bolton	96	95	1	—
Brough	222	218	2	2
Brough Sowerby	31	26	—	5
Brougham	85	76	1	8
Cliburn	61	61	—	—
Clifton	108	108	—	—
Colby	30	30	—	—
Crackenthorpe	31	30	—	1
Crosby Garrett	48	48	—	—
Crosby Ravensworth	173	162	—	11
Dufton	84	74	—	10
Hartley	54	47	5	2
Hillbeck	8	7	—	1
Hoff	61	61	—	—
Kaber	36	32	—	4
Kings Meaburn	42	42	—	—
Kirkby Stephen	562	562	—	—
Kirkby Thore	256	255	—	1
Long Marton	225	222	—	3
Lowther	129	120	1	8
Mallerstang	51	10	—	41
Martindale	44	11	—	33
Milburn	58	58	—	—
Morland	94	88	1	5
Murton	106	103	2	1
Musgrave	52	50	—	2
Nateby	37	29	2	6
Newbiggin	39	38	—	1
Newby	51	51	—	—
Ormside	36	32	—	4
Orton	214	202	—	12
Ravenstonedale	217	146	—	71
Shap	407	397	—	10
Shap Rural	58	44	—	14
Sleagill	27	27	—	—
Sockbridge & Tirril	120	120	—	—
Soulby	59	58	—	1
Stainmore	101	2*	—	99
Great Strickland	67	67	—	—
Little Strickland	21	21	—	—
Tebay	272	242	—	30
Temple Sowerby	121	121	—	—
Thrimby	13	13	—	—
Waitby	19	18	—	1
Warcop	159	156	—	3
Wharton	10	10	—	—
Winton	70	68	2	—
Yanwath & Eamont Bridge	78	78	—	—
TOTALS	5428	4991	17	420

* These do not include the houses supplied from the Stainmore Private Supply.

Note. The majority of Houses in column 5 are provided with piped supplies from private sources.

would like. Many of these can soon be connected to the public water mains.

The Secretary of State requires me to publish the number of houses and population of each of your 52 parishes, to show how many are served by public standpipes, and how many rely on other private arrangements. The figures are set out in a Table on an adjacent page.

What people are able to do with the water, once they have got it, is quite another question. The 1961 Census disclosed some facts about the plight of our housewives. At that time 23% had no hot water tap and 33% had no fixed bath.

Since then great efforts have been made to improve things, so that at the 1966 sample census, the figures were down to 13% without a hot water tap, and 23% without a fixed bath. Still a lot more improvement is needed. I believe that such decencies and comforts play an important part in raising the standards of public health.

Qualitative Aspects

Your Council continues to have the statutory responsibility to check that the public water supplies are sufficient and wholesome. In liaison with the Eden Water Board periodical tests are made on samples of water from consumers' taps, and some of the results are set out in Appendix A of this report.

The Eden Water Board has responsibility for regular stringent medical checks on all the waterworks staff, and for the public health safeguarding of its water gathering grounds.

The Board does not have any officially appointed medical officer for the purposes defined in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government publication "Safeguards to be adopted in the operation and management of waterworks."

I reckon that the Eden Water Board has been able to make a most valuable contribution to the public health with the policy of progressively abandoning the old vulnerable untreated small water sources, in favour of supplying all needs from more centralised sources which are constantly efficiently treated and sterilised.

Most of the public water supplies are now treated by chemical sterilisation. No flouride is added, and the natural flourine and radio-activity levels are believed to remain low.

The quality of the private water supplies to several hundred houses in North Westmorland is much less satisfactory. Your Council retains some official concern with them, because they have not been transferred to the responsibility of the Water Board.

It is inevitable that the quality of many of these private supplies should suffer from time to time, particularly when wet weather affects surface catchments and shallow wells. They are also vulnerable to foul drainage from new building developments when private rights do not afford them full protection.

Beyond the negative step of condemning and banning a dangerous source of water supply, I can only warn the users that they drink the water at their own risk, that they should have it tested for safety at suitable intervals under their own private arrangements, and that they should boil the water if they are still in doubt.

We shall also continue the excellent liaison with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for the joint investigation and assessment of applications for grant-aided farm water supply schemes. I have been most grateful for the longstanding co-operation of the Ministry's laboratory and other staff of the regional headquarters at Newcastle upon Tyne. It enables us to co-ordinate the safeguards of public health as well as the milk production and other agricultural interests.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The safe disposal of human sewage and other foul drainage has been recognized for thousands of years as one of the most important ways of protecting the public health. It is still particularly true today in our rural areas, with typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, salmonella and dysentery infections, and many primitive insanitary practices never far from the local scene.

North Westmorland Rural District is served by a series of separate public sewer systems and disposal works which deal with the foul drainage from the villages and more populated parts of other parishes. The remainder of the District has to rely upon individual septic tanks, cesspools, or drainage into watercourses, and some of the more remote houses still retain privies, pails, earth-closets and primitive ways.

Since the end of the war in 1945 your Council have pursued a progressive policy for extending the public sewerage systems to cope with the expanding development round many of our villages, and to improve or replace the existing sewage disposal works which were overloaded or worn out. Somewhat slower has been the bringing of organized public sewerage systems to villages and hamlets where more primitive conditions were becoming dangerous.

Even so, there will probably always be some settlements which cannot easily be linked up to the sewers of a large place, and which do not justify a full-scale system of their own. Many of these can be safely served by group septic tanks where the soil is suitable for absorption of the effluent. Isolated houses must perforce depend on some such individual method of dealing with their foul drainage.

I am indebted to the Engineers for most of the facts set out in the sections of my report which deal with sewage. I also record my appreciation of all their help and co-operation throughout the year on these vital services for safeguarding the public health.

Sewage Disposal Works.

During the post-war period, new sewage disposal works have been built at Brough, Tebay, Shap, Sockbridge, Askham, Temple Sowerby, Ravenstonedale, Newbiggin-on-Lune, Bolton and Kirkby Thore. These have produced a great improvement in the sewered areas around them.

Other improvements have been made to various works notably at Kirkby Stephen, with the joining up of Hartley and Nateby villages to that system. But some of the older works need replacement, particularly at Pooley Bridge and Eamont Bridge.

There are many other villages which require the installation of new sewers and modern disposal works: they are beyond improvement of their existing arrangements. Many of these other villages have ancient culverts or some primitive layout of combined surface water drains and piped sewers, but the arrangements are now usually rather insanitary.

Future Sewerage Policy.

Sewerage schemes take a lot longer to prepare and install than water schemes: there are no short cuts towards rapid results. Only long-term planning and careful foresight can help us on towards the village improvements which we should all like to see.

Indeed your Council have worked along these lines for the past twenty-five years. The policy has produced the very creditable results in our townships and major villages. Your Consulting Engineers have already prepared outline plans for future schemes. Our progress has had its ups and downs, with periodical national economy restriction, local limitations with building labour, land acquisitions, practical snags, and the weather. But our long-term planning has provided some elasticity, and the general policy has been seen to pay off in the long run.

Although your Council would wish to plan their future programme as far ahead as possible for all their sewerage schemes and replacements, they are no longer the sole arbiters of deciding the relative priorities between the various projects, nor in full control of when they should be carried out. The Rivers Authority now has a significant say in all these matters.

It would be unreasonable to accept the point of view that all priorities should be dictated by the Rivers Authority, and that the quality of existing effluents should be the sole criterion for shaping our future programme of improvements and extensions to the sewerage systems of our District. There are other public health factors to be taken into consideration, including the provision of sewerage to areas which have not yet been served.

My advice to all parties is that these matters should be periodically discussed to take into account all the changing scenes and developments throughout our Rural District. In this way we may be able to formulate our future programmes to please as many people as possible.

Your Council cannot stand still in the meantime. Your own impetus is carrying you forward towards getting on with the next village on your programme. The following more detailed notes show where we had got to at the end of the year.

Clifton.

Work was in progress throughout the year, and this scheme is expected to be completed in 1971.

Morland.

The scheme for new sewers and sewage disposal works for this village, with provision for the future connection to the sewerage system of the village of Newby, was approved in principle by the Minister of Housing and Local Government during 1967, but sanction to start work was deferred because of national economic restrictions.

I am disturbed about the increasing public health dangers, especially when the level of the village stream is low in Morland. The sewage can be seen running down the banks and ponding in the rocky pools. I made special representations in 1969 to urge government reconsideration for consent to remedy these dangers to the public health, and after a helpful visit by one of the Ministry's medical officers, approval to go to tender was granted and construction was in progress throughout 1970.

Milburn.

A scheme for sewerage the village, and the construction of a sewage disposal works, was submitted to the Ministry for approval in October, 1969, and an Inquiry was held in 1970, but various delays ensued, and special efforts are being made to get the work started before the end of 1971.

Pooley Bridge.

A scheme has been prepared for new sewers and sewage disposal works, which are now urgently needed in this village because the existing plant has become inadequate due to overloading. Not only has this village grown recently with residential development, but all through the summer it is full with thousands of tourists, visitors, motorists, caravans and the people for the Ullswater steamers. Such a popular holiday spot now merits a proper sewage disposal system.

After investigation of alternative methods of disposal, plans were revised for the site of a new disposal works, to serve the existing village sewerage systems plus some necessary extensions to take in recent development. Negotiations were in progress at the year end.

I regard this scheme as our top priority, to be commenced before Local Government reorganisation intervenes with consequent inevitable delays.

Eamont Bridge.

Considerable nuisance is now being caused by offensive smells coming up out of the old combined surface water and foul drainage channels which run past the lines of houses flanking the main A.6 road. There is also occasional flooding with sewage when the drains bank up in wet weather.

Improvement of the houses in the village by installation of water closets has accentuated the nuisances, and a separate new sewer is now needed to pick up all the foul drainage. This had been postponed because of traffic congestion on the narrow A.6 road, but now the M.6 motorway bypasses Eamont Bridge, the task will be easier.

Having thus got all the sewage down to the lowest point near the bridge, its disposal needs reviewing. There is a primitive tank in a field to the east of the A.6, with an outfall into the river Eamont below the weir.

Rather than the reconstruction and extension of this ancient village system, it might be preferable to pump our sewage into the Penrith Urban District sewer, if practicable and terms can be agreed. These alternatives now merit examination, to speed up the remedy of the insanitary conditions at Eamont Bridge.

Other Needs.

Your Council have formulated a tentative list of other villages where they would like to improve the sewerage in due course. These include Great Asby, Soulby, Crosby Ravensworth, Maulds Meaburn, Great Strickland, Little Strickland, Warcop, Dufton, Long Marton, Kings Meaburn, Cliburn, Hilton, Barton, Winton, Hackthorpe, and Lowther. Such were their hopes expressed for the County Development Plan up to 1981. How far we shall get with the programme is anyone's guess.

Public Conveniences.

Your Council provided public conveniences at Kirkby Stephen, Brough, Tebay, Shap, Pooley Bridge and Orton.

The accommodation is generally sufficient for local requirements but it is inadequate to deal with the seasonal motor-coach traffic. These coaches present a special difficulty in Kirkby Stephen which is used as a halting-point for a very large number of Tyneside-Blackpool vehicles, and the shortage is accentuated by their arrival within a short period of time.

Lavatories for Lay-bys.

I have become increasingly disquieted by the excremental pollution of the lands adjacent to most of the vehicle lay-bys on our main highway routes throughout Westmorland. In some places it is seriously jeopardizing the public health for the residents of the vicinity as well as for the travellers themselves.

The adequate signposting of existing public conveniences in our villages, and somewhere to park while visiting them, may need to be supplemented by advance notices in the intervening highway lay-bys to tell people where to find the next set. Some of our more popular lay-bys may soon justify having public conveniences of their own, perhaps of the simple chemical type, if their proper hygienic maintenance could be arranged.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

Collections are carried out weekly in all but the less populous areas where fortnightly collections are made.

The nature of the house refuse now collected continues to increase in bulk by reason of the large amount of food, etc. which is now sold in cases, cartons and packets. The Council have decided to purchase a new refuse vehicle in 1971 which incorporates a screw-feed mechanism in the rear loading hopper. This effectively reduces and compresses the refuse in volume enabling heavier loads to be carried with a reduction in the journeys to the tips.

Refuse Disposal.

Controlled tipping is the aim of the Council, but it is difficult to obtain sufficient covering material and labour to keep the tips in proper condition. Refuse is disposed of by tipping at five sites, Waitby, Tebay, Towcett, Melkinthorpe and Kings Meaburn.

Street Cleansing.

Street cleansing is carried out by the Westmorland County Council in the larger villages, and these are usually maintained in good order.

Extra street cleansing has been carried out at Kirkby Stephen on Sundays during the summer due to the large amount of litter resulting from the coach traffic.

Pest Control.

Mr. T. Taylor continues to function as Pest Officer under the control of the Health Inspectors. The treatment of the refuse tips and sewage works for the destruction of rats is carried out regularly. The treatment of private houses and other properties is carried out by the Council when requested by the persons responsible, and the costs in these cases are recovered.

I look upon the systematic destruction of rats and mice as a very helpful contribution towards safeguarding the public from all sorts of unpleasant diseases carried by those animals.

FOOD HYGIENE.

General Powers.

Your Council bear most of the statutory responsibility for safeguarding the public from foodborne diseases. The main aim is directed towards securing proper and hygienic conditions for the manufacture, preparation and sale of food. The secondary aim is to trace and localise any outbreaks of disease which may occur in spite of preventive measures.

Precautions against Contamination.

Food hygiene is steadily improving throughout your area. Public opinion is well ahead of the law and most traders are aware of the fact. The good food trader does not need official instruction in basic cleanliness or the enforcement of legal minimum standards. He may welcome advice on technical problems, but his aim is how high he can get, not how low he can get away with.

The responsibility for safe food does not rest entirely with the trader as the housewife must play her part as well. Quite a lot of strange things happen to food between the shop counter and the dinner plate, and the educational campaign has had to be carried into the home. Foodborne diseases, mild dysenteries and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

Ice-Cream.

The following premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:—

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale	...	0
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	... ..	1
Storage and sale only	... ..	94

Food Trade Categories.

The Secretary of State requires me to furnish certain details about the categories of food trade carried on during the year. They are set out in the adjacent table.

Regulation 16 relates to the requirement for providing wash-hand basins, and Regulation 19 relates to the requirements for providing facilities for washing food and equipment used in food businesses.

Category of Premises	Number	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Number to which Reg. 19 Applies	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses	1	1	1	1
Licensed Hotels and Inns ..	63	63	63	63
Private Hotels	2	2	2	2
Off Licences	2	2	2	2
Industrial Canteens	1	1	1	1
Clubs	2	2	2	2
Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars ..	18	18	18	18
Fish and Chip Shops	3	3	3	3
Grocers	7	7	7	7
Fishmongers, Greengrocers ..	1	1	1	1
Butchers	13	13	13	13
Wholesale Depots	1	1	1	1
General Dealers	40	40	40	40

Prepared Meats.

The number of premises on the Register for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, preserved meat, pressed meat, and pickled foods, was 10. Informal notices have been issued regarding certain alterations and improvements.

Liquid Eggs.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurization) Regulations, 1966.

There are no egg pasteurization plants in the District.

Poultry Processing.

Although a small amount of poultry dressing goes on at many farms for local retail sale, there is one large-scale establishment run on factory lines where about a quarter of a million birds per year were slaughtered and partially processed before being sent out of the County for completion of processing and wholesale marketing.

The birds comprised of chickens, hens and broilers. 12 inspections were made during the year, including some with the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, and the owner carried out some substantial improvements in cleanliness and food hygiene.

No record was made of the percentage or weight of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption, as inspection was minimal with such a huge throughput and merely partial processing without evisceration.

Milk Registrations.

At the year end there were 24 registered distributors, and three registered dairies which were not dairy farms. No particular difficulties were met, and milk-round vehicles were generally maintained in good condition.

Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.

Biological and other tests on 41 samples taken by various authorities, from sources in our area, continued to be passed to me. I have had no cause during the current year to serve any Notices under the Milk and Dairies Regulations to restrain the sale of milk or the activities of milk-handlers.

Special attention was directed towards the organisms of brucella abortus in the above samples. One was found and dealt with promptly.

Slaughterhouses.

Your Council adopted a policy of licensing small private slaughterhouses. From the point of view of efficient control and inspection of meat in such a scattered area, this causes many difficulties.

During the year slaughterhouse licences had been operative in respect of the following premises:—

Fletcher Hill, Kirkby Stephen.
Bridge End, Church Brough.
Musgrave Lane, Soulby.
Oak House, Ravenstonedale.
Langton Field, Appleby.

The changing pattern of the meat trade towards retailers buying off the hook, and a noticeable decrease in local slaughtering, together with the very stringent legal requirements under the hygiene and

Condemnation of Meat at the Abattoir

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned in whole or in part:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	467	3	—	1,977	388
Number inspected ..	467	3	—	1,977	388
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	—	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	58	2	—	53	6
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	12.8	66.6	—	2.8	1.5
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	4
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	1.0
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

cruelty regulations, make it doubtful how much longer it will be economic to maintain small private slaughterhouses.

All our local slaughterhouses are kept under very critical review by the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, during the year, as well as by our Public Health Inspectors.

Condemnation of Other Food.

The following other foodstuffs were condemned:—

Canned ham and tongue ...	...	...	5 lbs.
Frozen fish and canned foods ...	...	...	40 „
Meat from retail shops ...	...	...	139 „

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

The Secretary of State requires me to describe the current methods for the disposal of condemned food. In this district it is by burial.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Your Council employs one Chief Public Health Inspector and one Additional Public Health Inspector.

I record high tribute and appreciation of the work of the public health inspectors throughout the year.

Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

Factories.

There are 57 factories in your District, one is non-mechanical and 56 are provided with power.

One outworker was notified to your Council, and is employed in household linen.

The register of factories has recently been completely revised and cross-checking carried out with H.M. Inspector's records.

H.M. Inspector of Factories has been sent details of your Rural District's administration of the relevant sections of the Factory Act, 1961.

Two references were made to H.M. Inspector and 2 were received from her. No prosecutions were required.

Factory Inspections.

Premises.	Number of Premises.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	1	—	—
Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	56	51	4	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	57	52	4	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which Defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	2	—	—
Total	5	5	2	2	—

Offices and Shops.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

This legislation makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of people employed in these premises. 14 visits were made during the year.

Type of Premises	Registered at year end	Inspected during year	Persons Employed
Offices	9	3	62
Retail Shops	40	10	109
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses ..	—	—	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	20	30	115
Fuel storage depots	1	—	3
Totals	70	43	289

Eight written notices and no verbal notices were served for contraventions discovered. These were all remedied.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

Rent Acts.

No certificates were issued during the year and no contraventions regarding rent book entries were found.

Clean Air.

Informal action was taken to minimise the longstanding nuisance of limestone processing north of Shap Village, and complaints of dust at Kirkby Thore.

Compulsory Removals.

Fortunately it was not necessary to take any Court action for the compulsory removal of uncared-for people. Several individuals were visited for consideration during the year. Such cases are extremely distressing to deal with and the course of compulsory removal is reserved to meet the emergencies of a last resort when all other methods of help have failed. Sometimes it is very hard to decide what is really in the best interests of the patient.

Public Mortuary.

Your Council provide and operate a public mortuary at Shap. It is reasonably satisfactory for that limited purpose, and it is not intended for post-mortem examinations.

Your Council also share, with Appleby Council and Westmorland County Council, some premises in Appleby which have long been used as a public mortuary. Your two County District Councils are responsible for operating and maintaining it: the Westmorland County Council merely retain a share in the bricks and mortar.

I believe that public mortuaries should be conducted with a very high standard of cleanliness, decency and reverence, and shall be satisfied with nothing less.

Laboratory Services.

Satisfactory laboratory facilities were available at Carlisle for all public health purposes, free of charge to the Local Authority and the patient. This encourages the use of modern diagnostic methods of general practitioners and your Health Department.

APPENDIX A.

Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies.

Nature of Test	Standards Max.	Bleawater Treated	Dufton	Hilton	Kirkby Thore Bore Hole
Pr. Coli count 37° ..	3-10	0	1	160	0
Faecal Coli/strep ..	—	—	1	160	—
Date sampled last ..	—	11.11.70	4.11.70	4.11.70	11.11.70
Character	—	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction	—	6.9	7.5	6.7	7.4
Ammonical Nitrogen ..	.041	Trace	Trace	Nil	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	.066	Trace	Trace	.04	Trace
Total Solids	1000	40	110	120	315
Hardness { Total ..	300	17	85	100	290
{ Carbonate ..	—	7	70	90	170
{ Non-Carb... ..	—	10	15	10	120
Chlorides... ..	30	6	11	10	14
Nitrates	1.0	.55	.7	.15	2.0
Nitrites	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed	1.0	.75	.2	.1	Nil
Heavy Metals	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rainfall 24 hours ..	—	—	—	—	—
Date Sampled	—	13.5.70	25.8.67	22.8.67	26.2.69
Laboratory	—	Newcastle	Newcastle	Newcastle	Newcastle

Nature of Test	Kirkby Thore ex. Marble Scaur	Long marton	Maller- stang	Murton	Tebay
Pr. Coli count 37° ..	35	50	180+	1	180+
Faecal Coli/strep ..	35	50	180+	1	180+
Date sampled last ..	11.11.70	4.11.70	4.11.70	4.11.70	30.9.70
Character	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction	7.3	7.2	7.4	5.7	7.5
Ammonical Nitrogen ..	Trace	Trace	.02	.04	.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	.05	.9	.04	.04	.02
Total Solids	240	65	150	30	46
Hardness { Total ..	220	45	125	15	30
{ Carbonate..	200	20	115	5	—
{ Non-Carb... ..	20	25	10	10	30
Chlorides... ..	10	10	7	11	7
Nitrates	1.1	.9	.4	.3	—
Nitrites	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed .. ..	.85	.2	1.2	.05	.2
Heavy Metals	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rainfall 24 hours ..	—	—	—	—	—
Date Sampled	16.8.67	16.8.67	5.9.67	22.9.67	21.2.62
Laboratory	Newcastle	Newcastle	Newcastle	Newcastle	Carlisle

Chemical analyses results are expressed in parts per million.

APPENDIX A.
Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies—contd.

Nature of Test			Temple Sowerby	Warcop
Pr. Coli count 37°	..	..	0	5
Faecal Coli/strep	..	..		5
Date sampled last	..	..	11.11.70	4.11.70
Character	..	..	Clear	Clear
Reaction	..	..	6.6	6.5
Ammonical Nitrogen	..	..	Trace	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	Trace	Trace
Total Solids	..	..	165	145
Hardness	{ Total		125	130
	{ Carbonate..		80	120
	{ Non-Carb...		45	10
Chlorides..	..	..	14	14
Nitrates ..	..	..	4.4	.6
Nitrites ..	..	..	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed	..	..	.25	.1
Heavy Metals	..	..	n/a	n/a
Rainfall 24 hours	..	..	—	—
Date Sampled	..	..	16.8.67	22.8.67
Laboratory	..	..	Newcastle	Newcastle

Chemical analyses results are expressed in parts per million.

